

Women of West

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## Actress Startled Audience With 'Naked' Ride on Stage

### ADAH ISAACS MENKEN

Adah Isaacs Menken was a magnificent and wildly provocative actress, who packed the theaters in the West when she starred in a melodrama called "Mazeppa." In Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Virginia City, everywhere she starred, people long remembered Adah stripped and bound by the villain to the back of an "untamed steed" and sent forth into the world with the horse galloping on a treadmill past changing stage scenery showing mountains and plains and wolves and vultures and poor Adah crying out, "Where will these horrors end?"

Of course Adah was not naked as she appeared to be, but was clad in pink tights. The effect was, nevertheless, quite shocking.

Adah died in 1868 in Paris, but people, especially the men of the West, long boasted of having seen the "naked" girl on the horse in "Mazeppa."

### MRS. JOHN W. MACKEY

One lady of the West reigned as queen of the international

set of Europe, namely Maria Louisa Antoinette Hungerford, the late Mrs. John W. Mackey of Virginia City, Nev. Bad luck was hers first in 1854 when her family left New York for California and the gold fields. And bad luck it continued to be after she divorced her alcoholic husband and found herself alone.

As a seamstress in 1867, at 23, she married the bonanza king of the Virginia Consolidated Mine, John W. Mackey, and her good luck began.

Snubbed by society of New York as many of the newly rich were, she and her husband invaded Paris and London, where they were entertained by royalty that they in turn entertained. Beautiful as she was and poised, she held to the last her place at the top level, seeing her husband in later years when rare occasions brought him across the Atlantic.

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Stiffen and renew old straw hats with equal parts of clear shellac and clear alcohol.



**SENSATIONAL PERFORMER**—Adah Isaacs Menken, performed on stages throughout the West, including Utah, in an exciting and dramatic presentation, which shocked her pioneer audiences.



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Women of West

## 19th Century Pioneering Woman Urged Female Vote

By KATHRYN D. GROESBECK



Though most of the people in Wyoming in the 1860s were men, there was among them one forceful woman, 56-year-old Esther Morris, a woman respected by all. When she had a tea party in her shack in 1869, she invited the candidates for the legislature and asked each if he were elected he would introduce a bill in the new legislature to give women of Wyoming the vote.

Startled as they were at the indecency of such a request, the candidates agreed to introduce the bill. The winner of the election kept his word. On Dec. 10, 1869, the bill became law and in the following year the first woman in history cast her ballot in a public election, namely Louisa Ann Swain, a 70-year-old lady of Laramie.

The law later caused Wyoming some trouble and for awhile prevented Wyoming from gaining statehood. But fortunately other women in the nation were taking up the cause of Mrs. Morris, women like Susan B. Anthony, who would be remembered long after the resolute lady from the wilds of Wyoming had passed away.

**FORCEFUL WOMAN**—Ether Morris, who was responsible for the passage in the Wyoming Legislature of the bill granting women the right to vote for the first time. Sculpture by Avard Fairbanks.



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 1965  
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WYOMING MONUMENT — This is the statue of Esther Hobart Morris that stands at the entrance to the State Capitol Building in Wyoming in tribute to the women's suffrage leader.

## Wyoming Lady Fought Hard For Voting Rights

By KATHRYN D. GROESBECK

They put up a granite slab on the sage-brush land to mark her home and office site. And they pieced a commemorative statue of her at the entrance to the Wyoming's State Capitol. For the people did not want Esther Hobart Morris ever to be forgotten.

Esther Hobart Morris made history in the West at a time when some believed the west was just a frontier chiefly being handled by Indians or desperadoes. She was a courageous woman, who stood for law and justice with an aim in life to secure voting rights for women.

Through her friendliness and staunch determination she achieved her goal. Her happiness came in the attainment.

### Wyoming Leader

It was Esther Hobart Morris that led the crusade in Wyoming for equal rights. Highly respected as she was as a pioneer woman, she held a sort of tea party at her home, inviting among others both candidates for the territorial legislature. During the party she elicited the promise from the two candidates that the victor would introduce an act giving women the right to vote and hold office.

The winner kept his word. On December 10, 1869, the bill for woman suffrage became law and in the following year the first woman in history, 70-year-old Louisa Ann Swain of Laramie cast her ballot in a public election. Thus the Territory of Wyoming held the distinction as the world's first government to grant women equal rights with men.

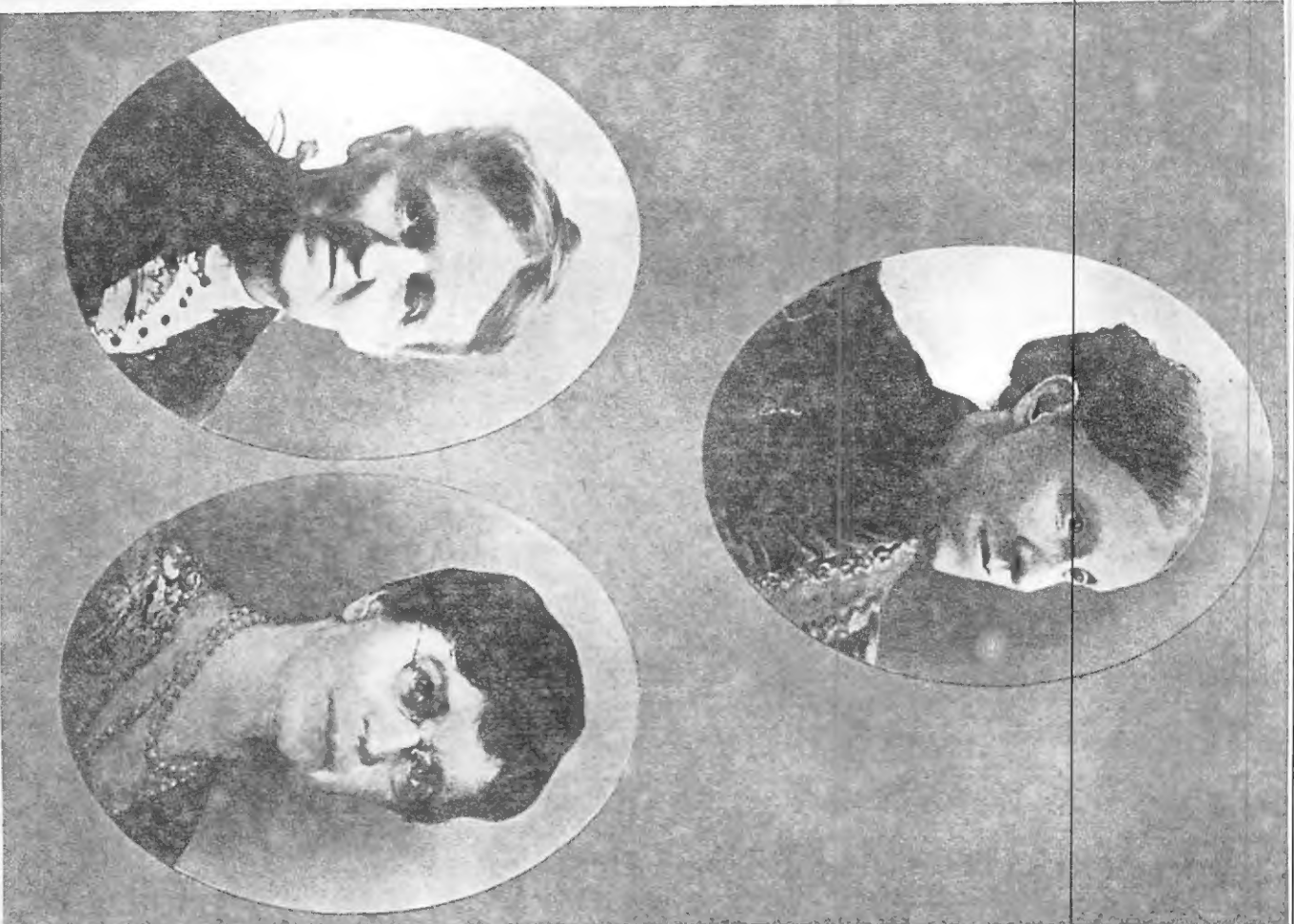
### Civic Worker

On February 14, 1870, this pioneer woman of the West, Esther Hobart Morris, became the world's first woman Justice of the Peace.

Though Wyoming was first in U. S. history to insure woman's place in politics, the law later caused Wyoming Territory some trouble and prevented it from gaining statehood until July 10, 1890. By that time other women in other states had taken up the cause of equal rights.

As an after-thought is might be said that it was in Wyoming that the first woman to become a governor, Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, held office there from 1925-27.





*Erin and Taylor*  
*Brooklyn 36 Times p382*



*May Anderson*  
*Utah - storied Downlain - Alter Vol. II. p393*